

What do you need for composting?

- The best place for a compost pile is shady, untrampled, and far from trees.
- It is best to place a fence with netting or boards around the perimeter. If there is a concrete or brick wall, there must be vertical slits for ventilation. The compost may turn sour without access to oxygen.
- The chosen area should be tamped down and the bottom covered with material for retaining moisture, such as peat, fine straw, dry leaves, etc. You may use sand and sod. This base should be no less than 30 centimeters thick.
- Two times each season the compost must be mixed.
- Compost must always be moist, so in dry weather it must be watered regularly. (It is recommended that you do not use soap water). To retain moisture in the compost pile, you may cover it with film or burlap. It is a good idea to line the sides with newspaper.
- Before hard freezes, place additional soil, pine needles, or dry leaves on the top to keep the compost from freezing. The total thickness of the covering must be 30 to 40 centimeters.

Sorting and recycling trash is an alternative to burning plastic, cardboard, paper, and metal waste. Look for opportunities near you – you may be able to make money from recycling your waste!

For more information:

- "Палити сміття -- собі дорожче" - Відомості.ua (April 8, 2010)
<http://vidomosti-ua.com/an/11514/> (accessed on October 20, 2010)
- "Спалювання листя є правопорушенням" (September 9, 2008) - МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОХОРОНИ НАВКОЛИШНЬОГО ПРИРОДНОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА УКРАЇНИ
<http://www.menr.gov.ua/cgi-bin/go?node=3037> (accessed on October 20, 2010)
- "Чим небезпечно для здоров'я спалювання сміття?" - ВІДДІЛ ЕКОЛОГІЇ ТА РАЦІОНАЛЬНОГО ПРИРОДОКОРИСТУВАННЯ (Краматорської міської ради)
<http://www.krm.dn.ua/pg/uk/page/368/> (accessed on November 4, 2010)
- "Про компост" - <http://botanicka.narod.ru/Doglad/dobruva/kompost.html> (accessed on November 10, 2010)

Pictures taken from: <http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Info/Pages/OBFAQ.aspx>;
<http://www.naparecycling.com/uploads/Backyard-composting.gif>



Trash Burning

Harmful for:

- the air
- your health
- the environment
- You!

Each spring many chronic diseases get worse, respiratory conditions peak, and various allergic reactions arise. We usually blame these problems on the weather, vitamin deficiencies, or changes in barometric pressure. We forget, however, that the air in this season is filled with **smoke from trash burning**, which contains numerous harmful components:

- **Carbon monoxide** – It binds with hemoglobin in the blood to form carboxyhemoglobin. This toxic molecule induces hypoxia, or oxygen deprivation, which can result in dizziness, headaches, immune suppression, and weakness.
- **Benzopyrene** – A strong carcinogen, which creates mutations turning good cells into cancerous ones.
- **Dioxins** – They suppress the immune system and promote cancer development. Dioxin also interferes with the proper functioning of the endocrine system.
- **Ketones and aldehydes** – They cause irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs.
- **Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons** – Most of these produced in smoke are carcinogens, which can cause cancer.
- **Heavy metals**

For every ton of plant waste burned, nine kilograms of smoke particles that remain suspended in the air for an extended period of time are released. Medical professionals, ecologists, and Ministry of Emergency Situations (MNS) workers all warn about the dangers of trash burning.

Trash burning also harms our environment. It injures plant root systems at the burn site and kills beneficial insects and microorganisms. This contributes to soil exhaustion.

Composting is an alternative to burning yard waste.



What is compost?

Compost is a well-formed mixture of organic plant and animal waste.

Why compost?

Composting allows you to cheaply and effectively turn yard and garden waste into valuable material (fertilizer). Also, composting is a safe way to recycle leaves and organic waste that does not harm the environment or health.

What can you compost?

At summer cottages and for gardens it is convenient to prepare a compost using practically all waste: plant remains, stalks, dry leaves, weeds, wood shavings, roots, yard waste, kitchen waste, ash, and also fecal matter.

*What **can't** you compost?*

You cannot compost diseased or herbicide-treated plants or weeds with seeds. You must moisten dry waste before adding it.